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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

File 535

COUNTRY Lebanon

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 16 JAN 50

SUBJECT Present Assignments of Armenian Communist Leaders

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A [redacted]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. [redacted] 25X1X

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[redacted]

25X1X 1. [redacted] Setrak Abajian now has two functions in the Communist Party:

a. He is responsible for the Jumayzah Quarter in Beirut.

b. He translates from French into Armenian all written material obtained from the Soviet Legation. He also prepares the pamphlets which are published in Armenian.

2. Ghannes Aghabashian, the leading Armenian Communist in Beirut during the period of the immigration movement to Soviet Armenia, subsequently was accused of embezzling funds, was expelled from Lebanon, and settled in Damascus. He later became once more a leader of the Armenian Section of the Communist Party in Beirut. [redacted] states that he is even more influential than Artin Hadoyan. Aghabashian has two Party functions: 25X1X

a. Responsibility for Ain Hurayši Quarter in Beirut, which contains a large number of Communists.

b. "Editor" of Party orders to the cells, as well as of propaganda pamphlets.

Aghabashian's wife is also an ardent Party member and is very active.

3. Yepren Elizian's specialty in the Party is Armenian communal affairs, 25X1X [redacted] He participated in the Kavaragan (Armenian Legislative Assembly). His principal duty, at present, is to plan ways and means of sabotaging Tashnak activities in order to diminish Tashnak influence. Before the Armenian immigration movement, Elizian had only a slight sympathy toward Communism. Later, however, he was in such close contact with Communist leaders that he became one of the most active Party members.

Document No. 010
No Change in Class. ☐
☒ Declassified
Class. Changed To: TS S C
Auth.: HR 70-2
Date: 01 JUN 1978 By: 015

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[redacted]

4. Artin (Harutun) Madoyan is half Assyrian and half Armenian. He has two major duties:

   a. Responsibility for the Mar Mikhail, Qarantina, and Hajjin Quarters in Beirut.

   b. Responsibility for holding together the Progressive Front (Hinchaks, Ramgavars, and Communists). He gives directions to the Progressive Front and keeps in close contact with the left-wing members of the Ramgavar and Hinchak Parties.

5. Bedros Minassian is very little known by name, even to Party members. However, his duties are quite important.

   a. He is contact man between Garabed Pashabezian, Yeprem Elizian, Artin Madoyan, Setrak Abajian, Ohannes Aghabashian, and Baruyr Yeretzian.

   b. He goes everywhere distributing written orders, propaganda pamphlets, letters, etc..

   c. He is chief of a group of five or six men, called "The Secret Committee." This committee is responsible for the execution of the dangerous duties; and its members perform their functions with some ease, as they are very little known to the public.

6. Garabed Pashabezian first became active in the Communist Party in 1943. Shortly thereafter he was appointed as a paid Party official and [redacted] 25X1X states that he is zealous in the performance of his Party work; he is primarily concerned with administration. Pashabezian constantly visits the cells in the various quarters and takes care of their Party educational program. He is also responsible for the Karin Zaytun and the Khalil Bedevi (Jumayl) sections of Beirut, and the Ashrafiyyah Quarter.

   Pashabezian is afraid to go about openly, as he is under sentence of three years' imprisonment.

7. Baruyr Yeretzian has two Party functions:

   a. Responsibility for the central part of Beirut, which includes the Zukak al-Blat, the Karakol Druz, the Public Gardens, and the Khandak al-Ghami Quarters.

   b. Chief adviser to the communist unions.

   In the past, when Party members were imprisoned, Yeretzian was responsible for sending them food.*

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25X1X * [redacted] Comment. [redacted] has acquired Yeretzian's notebook, and states that it reveals the latter's contacts with union representatives, Socony-Vacuum employees, bakers, mechanics, typographers, etc..

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